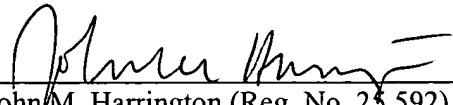


**REMARKS**

The foregoing Amendment eliminates multiple dependent claims and reference numerals from the claims, adds proper headings in the specification, and makes corrections conforming to US practice. Accordingly, the Amendment places the application in better condition prior to examination and adds no new matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/22/03

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John M. Harrington (Reg. No. 25,592)

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP  
1001 West Fourth Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
(336) 607-7318

12761-293991  
WINLIB01:1044329.1